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CONSUMER TIME R-40

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Produced by Consumers' Counsel Division of the Department of Agriculture, and presented in cooperation with United States Government agencies working for consumers.

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1. ANNOUNCER: This is CONSUMER TIME.

2. SOUND: CASH REGISTER - CLOSE DRAWER

3. NANCY: That's your money buying food.

4. SOUND: CASH REGISTER

5. REPORTER: That's your money paying for a home.

6. SOUND: CASH REGISTER

7. NANCY: That's your money buying clothes and the thousands of other things you need.

8. REPORTER That's you . . paying for these things . . money out of your pockets.

9. SOUND: CASH REGISTER - CLOSE DRAWER

10. ANNOUNCER: Are you getting the most for your money? Is it buying you the strength and health and courage that will mean victory for the American way?

11. VERNON: Each week at this hour CONSUMER TIME brings you facts that will make your pennies and dollars go farther and bring more of the things that you and all Americans need. This program is produced by your Consumers' Counsel in the Department of Agriculture, and is presented in cooperation with United States Government agencies working for consumers.

And here today are your consumer reporters - Nancy Ordway ——

12. NANCY: Reporting on spices.

13. ANNOUNCER: And [illegible] ——

14. REPORTER: How to make rubber stretch.

15. ANNOUNCER: And here too is that smart young housewife who's learning to make dollars stretch. Our inquiring consumer - Mrs. Evelyn Freyman.

16. FREYMAN: And they're not rubber dollars, either. Maybe if they were, I could make them stretch farther.

17. REPORTER: And they'd probably be worth more than a hundred pennies, too. You know, rubber's getting mighty precious these days.

18. FREYMAN: I know it is, . I'm passing along every scrap I don't need to the Salvage committee so it can be put to good use. And our other rubber articles - the ones we do need - I'm trying to take care of, to make them last as long as I can.

19. REPORTER: Well, that's just why we're discussing rubber on CONSUMER TIME today - to help you make those rubber articles stretch over the duration.

20. FREYMAN: Do you think we can? I've found that rubber doesn't keep very well. All sorts of things happen to it.

21. REPORTER: Such as ---?

22. FREYMAN: Well, take our garden hose, for instance. The other day, when my husband and I went to get it out of the garage ---

(PAUSE)

23. DAVID: Here, honey - will you take this end of the hose and drag it out into the yard?

24. FREYMAN: Okay ---

25. SOUND: RUBBER HOSE SLIDING ALONG.

26. DAVID: (FADING OFF) Boy, will we have the laugh on Harry Miles!

27. FREYMAN: Why?

28. DAVID: This is one summer our grass will be greener.

29. FREYMAN: You mean - because we're starting to water ours sooner?

30. DAVID: I mean - he can't water his at all - unless he's lucky enough to find a hose somewhere.

31. FREYMAN: What's the matter with the one he had last year?

32. DAVID: He sold it to the junkman. Planned to buy a new one this spring, and now - with the rubber shortage ---

33. FREYMAN: Say, David - this hose is all tied in knots!

34. DAVID: (FADING IN) Here - I'll fix it. Of course, I'll let him use ours - after he's stowed around awhile ---

35. FREYMAN: Look - it's all kinked up.

36. DAVID: Those'll straighten out.

37. FREYMAN: I don't know ... It's so stiff ---

38. DAVID: You'd be too - if you'd sat in the garage all winter.

39. FREYMAN: David - I think we ought to keep the hose in the basement.

40. DAVID: Now, don't start that again.

41. FREYMAN: But we wouldn't always be driving the car over it. And anyhow ---

42. DAVID: And anyhow the knots are all out. See ---

43. FREYMAN: It's still kinky.

44. DAVID: It'll straighten out - soon as we run some water through. (TURNING OFF) I'll go attach the other end to the spigot ---

45. FREYMAN: Should I hold this end up?

46. DAVID: (FADING) Yeah - will you?

47. FREYMAN: Well, it's awfully sticky ---

48. DAVID: (OFF) Watch out now! Here comes the water!

49. FREYMAN: (AFTER PAUSE) None's coming out.

50. DAVID: Give it time. (FADING IN) Boy, wait till Harry Miles sees <u>this</u> lawn.

51. FREYMAN: David - are you <u>sure</u> you turned the water on?

52. DAVID: Sure I'm sure. Hm! Why doesn't something happen?

53. FREYMAN: Look - something's happening back there!

54. DAVID: Where?

55. FREYMAN: There among those kinks.

56. DAVID: Holy cats! A leak!

57. FREYMAN: A leak! Looks like a sprinkler system!

58. DAVID: (FADING) Ahwah! My beautiful hose!

. . (PAUSE)

59. FREYMAN: And so, - we're in the same boat as our neighbors.

60. REPORTER: Tough luck, Mrs. Freyman - though I can't say you didn't have it coming to you.

61. FREYMAN: You mean - we should have stored the hose in our basement as I said.

62. REPORTER: Well, that depends on where in your basement. You shouldn't store it near the furnace - or any hot-water pipes. Heat's hard on rubber, you know.

63. FREYMAN: But what about cold. Freezing - in that garage all winter ---

64. REPORTER: Neither extreme of temperature is particularly good for rubber. But I think those breaks in your hose were probably caused by its baking in the hot sun all summer - so it dried out - then lying in kinks where the car could run over it.

64. FREYMAN: I see. And what made it sticky?

65. REPORTER: Well, that might have been due to a couple of things. Maybe some oil or grease from the car got on the hose. Rubber absorbs oil - swells up and gets weak. There's nothing you can do for it after that.

66. FREYMAN: But we've got to do something for our house. Isn't there any way we can fix it?

67. REPORTER: Yes - if it's long enough, you can cut out the damaged part and join the ends with couplings.

68. FREYMAN: Do we have to cut out the damaged part? Couldn't we mend those leaks with friction tape?

69. REPORTER: I wouldn't recommend it. Friction tape never makes a satisfactory repair in garden hose.

70. FREYMAN: But what about other rubber goods?

71. REPORTER: Yes, small rips and tears can often be mended with friction tape - or adhesive tape, rubber cement, or one of the plastic rubber compounds.

72. FREYMAN: Friction tape - or adhesive tape - or rubber cement ——

73 REPORTER: Or a plastic rubber compound.

74. FREYMAN: Glue or mucilage won't do.

75. REPORTER: No - nor cement either - unless it's rubber cement.

76. FREYMAN: And how would I use rubber cement in mending tears?

77. REPORTER: Well, in most cases you'd need some kind of a patch, and the best patch is made of the same stuff as the article you're mending.

78. FREYMAN: Well, say it was a hot water bottle ——

79. REPORTER: Then you could use a piece of inner tube patching. It would be best to put the patch on the inside, where the water hits it, but since you probably can't turn your hot water bottle inside out ——

80. FREYMAN: I certainly can't.

81. REPORTER: Then you'll have to put your patch on the outside. First you should roughen the surface of the rubber around the tear with sandpaper ——

82. FREYMAN: Roughen the rubber with sandpaper ——

83. REPORTER: So the patch will stick better. And be sure the patch is one half inch larger all around than the hole you're patching.

84. FREYMAN: On half inch larger all around - so it'll stick firm.

85. REPORTER: That's the idea. Then you remove the holland cloth from the patch, and apply one coat of rubber cement to the patch - two coats to the place you're patching.

86. FREYMAN: Then - stick them together ——

87. REPORTER: Not till they've both dried thoroughly. Then you put your patch on the article exactly where you want it. Don't try to move it once it's in place. Just press firmly - and set a weight on it till the patch is well anchored.

88. FREYMAN: And it will really hold?

89. REPORTER: It ought to - if you followed directions.

90. FREYMAN: What other things can I mend like that - with patches?

91. REPORTER: Oh, syringes - rubber sheets - aprons - rubber-coated raincoats.... But of course, in the case of raincoats, you'd put the patch on the <u>outside</u> ——

92. FREYMAN: Where the water hits.

93. REPORTER: That's it. And you'd want to make your patch of the same material as the coat - if you could get it ——

94. FREYMAN: Maybe part of the belt - or a pocket.

95. REPORTER: Sure - you could use those. And when you do use the same material for a patch, it's best to apply <u>two</u> coats of rubber cement to <u>both</u> the patch and the garment.

96. FREYMAN: I see... Well, it's mighty good to know, - how

97. REPORTER: But it's even better to know how to take care of them - so they won't need fixing.

98. FREYMAN: You mean - keep them away from heat and sunlight.

99. REPORTER: Right - don't store them in the attic, or in closets along south walls, or near radiators or steam pipes. The hotter the temperature, the more quickly rubber weakens, cracks and gets sticky.

100. FREYMAN: And oil too, you said, is bad for it.

101. REPORTER: Uh-huh - any kind of oil or grease. Even the oil from your fingers - if you touch the rubber gasket, say, around your icebox door. That will make the rubber deteriorate. It's a good idea to wash it each week with a mild soap solution.

102. FREYMAN: But some grease spots, a , wouldn't come off with just soap and water.

103. REPORTER: Then you'll have to sponge the article lightly with some quick-drying cleaning fluid - such as carbon tetrachloride.

104. FREYMAN: What was that?

105. REPORTER: Carbon tetrachloride. It won't leave any oily film behind. But even so, you shouldn't use too much of it. And no matter how dirty your rubber article is, you shouldn't dip it in cleaning fluid.

106. FREYMAN: Avoid dry cleaning fluid - grease and oil - heat and sunlight.... Anything else?

107. REPORTER: Copper.

108. FREYMAN: Copper's hard on rubber?

109. REPORTER: It certainly is. Even a copper penny, in contact with one of those rubber dollars you spoke about, would make the rubber get soft and sticky - then hard and brittle.

110. FREYMAN: Then I shouldn't wear rubber gloves when polishing copper.

111. REPORTER: No - or when polishing brass either. And don't wear them when you scrub your pans with a ball of copper thread.

112. FREYMAN: Any more "dont's"?

113. REPORTER: No, but here are a few "do's. If you want your rubber articles to last, store them in a cool, dark place. Be sure they're clean and dry, and repair them whenever you can.

114. FREYMAN: I hope you're putting those do's and don'ts on a Consumer Tips card - so we can all get a copy.

115. REPORTER: They are printed on a Tips card - along with some specific directions for taking care of certain kinds of rubber goods - and patching and so on. It's a card that every person in this country ought to have on hand to make his rubber goods last, and we'll be glad to send a copy to everyone who writes in.

116. FR YMAN: Well, I'll be writing in - to the Consumers' Counsel - Department of Agriculture, ashington, D. C.

117. REPORTER: That's the place. Just ask for the Consumer Tips on Rubber.

118. FREYMAN: And how about some tips on spices, Nancy?

119. NANCY: (COMING ON MIKE) Yes, I have them right here on this card.

120. FREYMAN: Is it true that we aren't going to be able to get them?

121. NANCY: We aren't going to be able to get some spices, but that's no reason for buying up an extra supply.

122. FREYMAN: I know that - now. In fact, I know a very good reason for not buying up an extra supply.

123. NANCY: Which reason?

124. FREYMAN: Well, it's one that Mother Miles called to my attention. The other day, when we were shopping ---

125. SOUND: FADE IN GROCERY STORE EFFECT.

126. GROCER: Anything else, ladies?

127. MOTHER M: Well, let's see - I have plenty of butter - and eggs ---

128. GROCER: How about spices?

129. MOTHER M: No, I don't think I need any.

130. GROCER: Pepper - cinnamon ---

131. MOTHER M: No, I have enough.

132. GROCER: You're going to need more than enough - to last you for the duration.

133. FREYMAN: That's right, Mother Miles. The papers say we won't be importing any more.

134. MOTHER M: That's all right. I'll get along.

135. FREYMAN: Well, I don't mean we should hoard spices, but it does seem smart to buy an extra box.

136. MOTHER M: Not if you're thinking of flavor, it isn't smart - or if you're thinking of your pocketbook either. You'd just be throwing your money away.

137. FREYMAN: Why?

138. MOTHER M: Because by the time you got around to using that spice it would probably be just so much dust.

139. FREYMAN: That's right - they do lose their flavor.

140. MOTHER M: They certainly do. Why, I'll bet you that half of the spices in people's houses are just cluttering up their pantry shelves, doing nobody any good.

(PAUSE)

141. FREYMAN: And I guess she's right, Nancy.

142. NANCY: Well, I don't know the figure on it, but I do know that after a box of ground spice has stood open on your shelf for a couple of years it's just about so much dust.

143. FREYMAN: You say ground spice ---

144. NANCY: Yes, most spices are ground from something, - you know, berries, or bark, or seeds.

145. FREYMAN: And after they're ground up, the flavor begins to disappear?

146. NANCY: Well, it disappears faster after they're ground up. You see, most of that flavor is in the oils in spices and these oils evaporate ---

147. FREYMAN: Then I should think it would be better to buy spices whole - whole cloves - and - and ---

148. NANCY: And whole nutmegs - and pepperkorns - and cinnamon sticks ---

149. FREYMAN: Yes. Wouldn't it be better to buy them that way - and grind your own?

150. NANCY: Sure - if you have some way of grinding them.

151. FREYMAN: Oh - I never thought of that.

152. NANCY: Of course, our grandmothers did it. And some people still use pepper - mills for grinding their own pepper. If you can grind your spices, it's a good idea. But if you can't, I have a couple of other suggestions that will help you to keep their fresh flavor.

153. FREYMAN: How's that, Nancy?

154. NANCY: Well, one is Mrs. Miles' suggestion - don't buy them in large quantities.

155. FREYMAN: But spices just come in certain size packages. I couldn't buy any less ---

156. NANCY: Well, you could divvy up with your neighbors. Suppose you bought a box of cinnamon - and Mrs. Miles bought nutmeg - and another neighbor had some cloves ---

157. FREYMAN: Sort of pool our spices.

158. NANCY: That's it. You could either borrow from each other when you needed them - or, if you had some small air-tight containers, you could each take a third of a package.

159. FREYMAN: I have some tiny little jars, with screw caps.

160. NANCY: Those would be good. Or you might use your leftover spice boxes, with the shaker tops. Since you'd only have a small amount of spice, it wouldn't get much chance to dry out.

161. FREYMAN: But I always throw those shaker cans away when they're empty.

162. NANCY: Well, you'd better start saving them - if you want the convenience of a metal shaker top. Next year's spice packages won't have them.

163. FREYMAN: Oh. To save metal for war ---

164. NANCY: That's why. And you'll be saving spices - by keeping smaller quantities on hand. What we have will last longer if it's not tucked away where nobody uses it till the spiciness is all gone.

165. FREYMAN: Well, is there any other way I can preserve that spiciness besides trying to keep my containers air-tight?

166. NANCY: Yes, you can store them in a cool place - away from the stove. And to make your spices go farther, be sure you measure them carefully, according to the recipes.

167. FREYMAN: Don't worry - I won't waste them. But didn't you say there are some spices we won't be able to get?

168. NANCY: Yes, the ones that grow only in the Orient - cloves, black pepper, and cassia, we call it cinnamon. As soon as our supply of those spices is used up, we'll probably have to get along without them.

169. FREYMAN: But we'll be able to get all the rest - nutmeg and allspice

170. NANCY: If the ships are able to bring them - from South America and the West Indies. And meanwhile smart cooks are experimenting with new flavors for their cooking. Or rather old flavors. They're digging back into old cook books and surprising their families with delicious seasonings that most of us have never tasted before.

171. FREYMAN: What kind of seasonings do they use, Nancy?

172. NANCY: Herbs mostly - basil, sweet marjoram, thyme, nasturtium ---

173. FREYMAN: Nasturtium!

174. NANCY: Mm-hm. It adds a wonderful touch - to certain things.

175. FREYMAN: And we could grow it right in our own garden!

176. NANCY: Of course. And you could grow other herbs too. Lots of women are planting herb gardens this spring.

177. FREYMAN: Wouldn't that be fun - to pick my own flavors, right out of the back yard!

178. NANCY: It is fun - and quite easy too. Some women even grow their herbs in windowboxes. I knew one last summer who had mint and chives planted in a box on her porch, and her salads were the talk of the town.

179. FREYMAN: But how would I go about this, Nancy? I don't even know the <u>names</u> of the herbs - let alone how to grow and use them.

180. NANCY: Well, the Department of Agriculture has published a pamphlet on the subject, just intended for people like you. We're listing the name of that pamphlet on our Consumer Tips card about spices - along with a list of the herbs you can use to spice up your cooking, and rules for conserving the spices you already have.

181. FREYMAN: And every one of us can get a free copy of that Tips card?

182. NANCY: Indeed you can, and in a few minutes I'll tell you just exactly how. But first I think we have a bit of reckoning to do with the man who's chiefly responsible for these consumer services.

183. FREYMAN: Our Consumers' Counsel, Donald Montgomery.

184. NANCY: Right. How about it, Mr. Montgomery? Isn't this the day of reckoning on home budgets?

185. MONTGOMERY:

186. FREYMAN: Well, Mr. Montgomery, I'm really going to watch the pennies from now on.

187. MONTGOMERY: Fine. And we'll have some more facts ready next week to help you watch them.

188. FREYMAN: On what subjects?

189. MONTGOMERY: Well, Ken here is going to report on ---

190. REPORTER:

191. MONTGOMERY: And Nancy ---

192. NANCY:

193. FREYMAN: and for next week's CONSUMER TIME, and meanwhile I'll be taking care of my rubber goods - and planting an herb garden - if I can get copies of those Tips cards.

194. NANCY: All you have to do to get them is write to the Consumers' Counsel - Department of Agriculture - Washington, D. C.

195. FREYMAN: And ask for the Consumer Tips on rubber and spices. Is that it?

196. NANCY: That's it. And we'll send you your copy of these cards. The Tips on rubber gives you the general rules for taking care of all rubber goods, as well as some specific rules for mending and caring for such things as girdles, rubber boots and galoshes, and garden hose.

197. FREYMAN: Well, I for one am going to keep a copy of that card on hand in my household file - to make my rubber goods stretch as far as it can. And I want the card about spices too, so I'll know how to conserve them - and how to use herbs to add that certain something to my cooking.

198. NANCY: Well, if you do use herbs, I can practically guarantee that you'll become famous for your flavors - and your husband will probably completely forget the things that mother used to make.

199. FREYMAN: And all that just by writing in to the Consumers' Counsel - Department of Agriculture - Washington, D. C., and asking for the Tips on rubber and spices.

200. NANCY: That's all - except that you should be sure to remember to give us your own name and address and the call letters of the radio station over which you heard this program. We need that information in order to send you the Consumer Tips cards.

201. FREYMAN: Then I'll surely remember to send it in. To the Consumers' Counsel - Department of Agriculture - Washington, D. C.

201. REPORTER: Next week CONSUMER TIME will bring you more valuable information from your Consumers' Counsel in the Department of Agriculture - in cooperation with Government agencies working for consumers.

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